

# SCRIPTURE TRACK

## Tour of Apologetics: The Bible (Where it Came From, Who Wrote It, Can We Trust It?)

**Tonight's Goal –to help you grasp the fact that you can trust what is in the Bible!**

### 1. Who [Wrote] the Bible (like, the actual manuscripts)?

[Scribes] Wrote the Bible Manuscripts

- A scribe was someone whose job was to copy letters.
- Scribes could be killed for making mistakes
- Scribes had very strict rules
- Jewish scribes, who are responsible for many of the manuscript copies, were part of an elite class.

The Autographs

- An “autograph” is a [manuscript] penned by the author himself.
- We have [ZERO] autographs of any Bible book.
- Instead, we have thousands of copies, fragments, and versions that we call “manuscripts.”

The Manuscripts

- **Claim:** “There are hundreds of thousands of errors in the manuscripts of the New Testament.”
  - There are over [25,000] Biblical manuscripts
    - 5800 Greek
    - 10,000 Latin
    - 9800 in other languages

### 2. So can I [trust] what I read in the Bible? Is what we have [today] the same thing written back then?

Evidence:

- Early in the history of the church, Greek documents, including the Scriptures, were translated into various languages.
- By the 3rd and 4th Centuries the New Testament was translated into Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Georgian, etc.
- Conclusion: There is overwhelming [agreement] between the manuscripts (upwards of 99%).
- The [disagreements] between manuscripts are usually easily understood.
- Honest Biblical Criticism is [**helpful**], not hurtful, to our faith ... because God has successfully preserved His Word.

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### 3. Understanding Textual Criticism

- Textual criticism is the field of study that assesses that body of evidence to discover the most [authentic] text of the Scriptures. It asks all the hard questions so that there is little to no doubt as to the reliability of the Scriptures.

### 4. Case Study: Mark 16

Example - Mark 16:9-20 – the one “toughie” in the NT

### 5. The Canon

Meaning of the term “canon” – means [“reed”] or [“standard”]

- Which books [belong] in the Bible?
- A list of accepted books meeting certain requirements.
- Canonical = [authoritative] for us

Things to consider:

1. Bible books were canonical when [written]
2. Canon declared [complete] in AD 397

#### The Canon’s Guiding Principles:

- Was the book written by a [prophet] of God?
- Was the book confirmed by [acts] of God?
- Did its message tell the [truth] about God?
- Does it come with the [power] of God?
- Was it accepted by the [people] of God?

#### Sequential Process of Recognizing Biblical Canonicity

1. Apostolic period (1<sup>st</sup> century)
2. Church fathers (A.D. 70-170)
3. Early church (A.D. 170-350) – Nicaea - few debated
4. Council of Carthage (A.D. 397) – closed

**Tonight’s Goal – to answer all those questions and to get you comfortable with the fact that you can trust what is in the Bible! Hopefully this helped!**